

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image formation apparatus that develops an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor by means of a thin toner layer, which comprises forming on surface of a developer 5 roller via toner of a magnetic roller and magnetic brush of carrier particles, so as to form an image,

wherein the developer roller is made of aluminum and has an aluminum oxide film of at least 5  $\mu\text{m}$  in thickness formed on surface thereof, and a gap between the developer roller and a drum 10 of the photoreceptor is set in a range of 150 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

2. The image formation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the aluminum oxide film is in a range of 10 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the gap between the development roller and the drum of the photoreceptor is in a range of 150 to 280  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15 3. An image formation method that develops an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor by means of a thin toner layer, which is formed on surface of a developer roller via toner of a magnetic roller and magnetic brush of carrier particles, so as to form an image, said image formation method comprising the steps 20 of:

providing the developer roller that is made of aluminum and has an aluminum oxide film of at least 5  $\mu\text{m}$  in thickness formed on surface thereof;

25 setting a gap between the developer roller and a drum of the photoreceptor in a range of 150 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

applying a DC voltage superposed with an AC voltage to said developer roller;

regulating a frequency of AC voltage in a non-development state to be higher than that in a development state; and

5 selectively making charged toner fly onto the electrostatic latent image for development.

4. The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 1 to 4 kHz in the development state.

10 5. The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 1 to 3 kHz in the development state.

6. The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 4 to 8 kHz in the 15 non-development state.

7. The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 5 to 8 kHz in the non-development state.